

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20 line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

ABSTRACT

There is shown a system and method for reducing the difficulty in percutaneous placement of a spine stabilization brace. A medical implant system has a first bone anchor having a longitudinal axis, a second bone anchor and a brace. The brace couples the first bone anchor to the second bone anchor. A the distal end of the brace may be pivotally coupled to the first bone anchor and also adapted to slide in a generally transverse direction in relation to the longitudinal axis of the first bone anchor. ~~by coupling the brace to a pedicle screw in a single assembly. The brace-screw assembly is delivered along with an anchor extension through a cannula for anchoring in the vertebrae pedicle. The anchor extension becomes a cannula for working on the brace from the exterior of the patient, as constructed with a slot opening along two sides. Once the screw portion of the brace-screw assembly is locked in place with respect to the first vertebra, the proximal end of the brace is below the skin line. The brace is then repositioned so that the proximal end leaves the cannula through one slot and is captured by a corresponding slot positioned in a second cannula coupled to a second anchor. Once captured, the proximal end of the brace is guided by the second cannula to a receptacle positioned in the second vertebra.~~